

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00241 110925Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1249

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0241

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH), US, ZA

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND PRESIDENT FORD

REF: STATE 23867

1. PROPOSED DATE OF APRIL 19 FOR SUBJECT MEETING RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER VERNON MWAANGA ON FEBRUARY 5 WHO DISCUSSED IT WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN INTERIM WHO ACCEPTED IT WITH PLEASURE. MWAANGA SAID THIS MEANS MOVING UP PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA FOR CARIBBEAN TRIP SOME FEW DAYS IN ADVANCE AND MAY ALTER ORIGINAL ZAMBIAN PLAN TO STOP OVER IN DAKAR TO VISIT PRESIDENT SENGHOR EN ROUTE, POSSIBLY STOPPING ON RETURN.

2. ZAMBIAN ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL 19 DATE FOR MEETING OF PRESIDENTS WILL NECESSITATE STAY OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA IN WASHINGTON THROUGH APRIL 20 AS PARTY NOT DUE IN CUBA UNTIL APRIL 21. WOULD HOPE THIS EXTENSION BY ONE DAY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON, AND THAT KAUNDA COULD BE ACCOMODATED AT BLAIR HOUSE FOR NIGHTS OF APRIL 19 AND APRIL 20.

3. MWAANGA SAID PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND PARTY WOULD PROBABLY CROSS ATLANTIC NIGHT OF APRIL 18 AND PLAN ARRIVE WASHINGTON MORNING OF APRIL 19, DEPARTING FOR HAVANA MORNING OF APRIL 21. DETAILS ON MODE OF TRAVEL AND
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00241 110925Z

COMPOSITION OF PARTY TO FOLLOW. MEANWHILE, WOULD BE

HELPFUL HAVE INDICATION OF MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTY WHICH COULD BE ACCOMODATED WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT BLAIR HOUSE, TOGETHER WITH INDICATION OF OTHER DATA REQUIREMENTS ON ZAMBIANS SO THAT PREPARATIONS CAN COMMENCE HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. MWAANGA MADE NO REQUESTS FOR PROGRAMMING PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S TIME ON APRIL 20; INSTEAD INDICATED EARLIER PROPOSALS BY BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY FOR GRANTING OF HONORARY DEGREE MAY BE REVIVED. ASSUME ZAMBIANS MAY ALSO CONTACT THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REGARDING POSSIBLE INTEREST OF UN SYG WALDHEIM AND WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA IN RECEIVING KAUNDA. WOULD HOPE DEPARTMENT COULD LAY GROUND FOR POSSIBLE LUNCH APRIL 20 AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR PROMOTING ZAMBIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN EVENT KAUNDA NOT RPT NOT AWAY FROM WASHINGTON BETTER PART OF APRIL 20.

5. FONMIN MWAANGA DEPARTS LUSAKA FEBRUARY 11 AND WILL BE AWAY ON ASIAN TRIP UNTIL MARCH 4.

6. FIVE DAY DELAY IN ZAMBIAN RESPONSE TO PROPOSED DATE FOR MEETING DUE TO FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN THIS PERIOD BETWEEN LUSAKA AND DAR WITH SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS AMONG AND BETWEEN FOUR PRESIDENTS (KHAMA, KAUNDA, NYERERE AND MACHEL), ANC NATIONALISTS AND SAG FONMIN MULLER, ALL SEIZED WITH SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.
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